

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 02346 281505Z

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TAGS: CASC, RP (GERLOCK, EDWARD MARION)

SUBJECT: W/W FATHER GERLOCK HEARINGS, FEB. 26 AND 28

SUMMARY. SENATOR TANADA CONCLUDED TWO DAYS OF DEFENSE OF GERLOCK WITH ARGUMENT BASED ON ASSERTION THAT GERLOCK ACTING NOT AS INDIVIDUAL BUT AS AGENT OF CHURCH. NEXT AND PROBABLY LAST HEARING SET MARCH 7. IMMIGRATION COMMISSIONER REYES, PRESIDING, HAS NOT YET GIVEN INDICATION OF GOP'S ULTIMATE DECISION ON GERLOCK. END SUMMARY

1. FORMER SENATOR TANADA CALLED MARYKNOLL BISHOP REGAN, JESUIT BISHOP OF BUKIDNON, FRANCISCO CLAVER, AND MARYKNOLL DAVAO SUPERIOR, FATHER NOONAN, AS DEFENSE WITNESSES IN DEPORTATION HEARINGS OF FATHER GERLOCK ON FEB 26 AND FEB 28. DEFENSE'S PRESENTATION WAS CONDUCTED BEFORE IMMIGRATION AND DEPORTATION COMMISSIONER REYES IN SMALL STUFFY CONFERENCE ROOM AGAIN PACKED DURING BOTH SESSIONS BY MORE THAN 100 ON-LOOKERS, MOSTLY NUNS, OTHER GERLOCK SUPPORTERS, AND INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL PRESS REPRESENTATIVES. IN CONTRAST TO RELAXED AND SOMETIMES COMICAL ATMOSPHERE PREVIOUS SESSIONS, DEFENSE PRESENTATION WAS METHODICAL AND REYES PRESIDED OFFICIOUSLY WITH FURROWED BROW. THIS POSTURE APPARENTLY IN KEEPING WITH RECENT REYES WARNINGS TO MARYKNOLL FATHERS THAT DEFENSE MUST PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY AND WITH RESTRAINT.

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PAGE 02 MANILA 02346 281505Z

2. DEFENSE STRATEGY APPEARS GEARED TO ESTABLISHING GER-

LOCK'S GOOD CHARACTER AND LINKING HIS ACTIVITIES TO IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL AND PHILIPPINE CHURCH PRONOUNCEMENTS AND PRINCIPLES CONCERNING EVANGELISM, THAT IS, PREACHING THE GOSPEL AND CONCERN FOR TOTAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT. BISHOP CLAVER AFFIRMED THAT PREACHING THE GOSPEL NOT COMPLETE UNDER SOME CONDITIONS UNLESS POLITICS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, AND THUS MARTIAL LAW QUESTION MUST BE ADDRESSED BY CHURCH. ALTHOUGH PROSECUTION ATTEMPTED KEEP GERLOCK AS FOCUS OF HEARING, DEFENSE FORCED TESTIMONY AND CROSS EXAMINATIONS INTO REALM OF MORAL JUDGMENT OF MARTIAL LAW, BOTH ITS PRECEPTS AND PRACTICE, CLEARLY ATTEMPTING DRAW CHURCH MORE DEEPLY INTO FRAY.

3. DESPITE RATHER BROAD, CHURCH-BASED DEFENSE ADVANCED BY SENATOR TANADA, IMMIGRATION COMMISSIONER REYES TURNED AT END OF SESSION TO WHAT MAY BE HEART OF CASE TO GOP WHEN HE ASKED FATHER NOONAN IF GERLOCK HAD NOT VIOLATED TERMS OF CONDITIONAL RELEASE FROM DETENTION AFTER FIRST ARREST IN 1972. FATHER NOONAN DENIED THIS CHARGE. WHETHER GOP WILL ACCEPT DENIAL REMAINS TO BE SEEN BUT ABILITY OF GOVERNMENT TO CONTROL CHURCH SOCIAL ACTION IS OBVIOUSLY KEY CONCERN.

4. NEXT AND PRESUMABLY LAST HEARING SET FOR MARCH 7.

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